

THE PASSAGE FROM THE WORLD

infirmities and sufferings. But, especially at the present time, it seems that my sweet Creator, as He did with Job, has given leave to the demons to torment and smite it as they please. Never do I remember at any time to have borne so many sweet sufferings and torments as now I bear. Thanks be to His infinite goodness, which makes me worthy to endure for glory and praise of His name in this sweet Spouse. And now, at the last, it seems to me that my most sweet Bridegroom, after so much enflamed and panting desire, so many sufferings and bodily infirmities, wills that my soul should utterly leave this dark prison and return to her source. I speak not as though I saw the certainty of His will in this, but it seems to me so.'

" And then, speaking emphatically, she added : ° Hold for certain, sweetest and dearest children, that, in departing from the body, I in truth have consumed and given my life in the Church and for the Church ; which thing is a most special grace for me.' And, to comfort us all, who were weeping bitterly round her, she said : * My children, you ought not to be grieved at this, but to have singular joy and gladness thereat; considering that I am leaving a place of such great sufferings and shall go to rest in the pacific sea, God eternal, and to be united, without any mean, to my most sweet Bridegroom. And I promise you that I shall be more perfectly with you, and shall be able to help you more there than I have been able to do here, inasmuch as I shall be delivered from darkness and united with the true and eternal light. Nevertheless, I co~mmit both life and death to the will of my Creator ; for, if He sees that I can be of any use to any one here, I would not shun labour, nor torment, nor any pain ; but I am ready, for His honour and for the salvation of my neighbour, to give my life a thousand times a day, and each time with greater suffering than the other, if it were possible.'

" Her discourse being ended, she called us each one by name, and enjoined upon each one what she wished him to do after her life, if it was God's pleasure that it should now be ended; and each one, with humility and reverence, received her obedience. Then she besought us all humbly, to pardon her if she had not